

# News Flash



www.myumbbank.com | Universal Merchant Bank Limited | UMB Research/Business Intelligence Unit Monday, 24 December, 2018

## Economic News

### 'COCOBOD CEO warns of troubling times for cocoa sector if...'

Chief Executive Officer of COCOBOD, Joseph Boahen Aidoo has warned cocoa farmers against the use of chemicals since this could affect cocoa production levels. Interacting with the 2018 National Best Cocoa Farmer, Charles Gyamfi, the promising young cocoa farmer, Paul Osei Tuffuor and some award-winning cocoa farmers, Mr Boahen Aidoo said more funding will also be injected to the cocoa sector to increase yields. He said, "As a sector, we have to cherish and do everything to sustain the production of cocoa. What we are looking for in Ghana is the sustainable production of cocoa and to do that we have to do everything possible to encourage our farmers, teach them and support them. When weedicides and pesticides were not introduced on our cocoa farms, the farmers could easily go there and get other things apart from cocoa, and the soil was also rich but these days all the bush gifts like mushrooms have disappeared simply because of the use of chemicals," he stated.

Source: [Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'Gov't blocks dumping of imported inferior cement in Ghana'

Minister for Works and Housing Samuel Atta Kyea has bemoaned the dumping of inferior cement onto the local markets which he says possess serious hazard to the housing industry. The minister believes this is the cause of constant collapse of buildings in the country. He made these remarks at the CIMAF customer Awards dinner held in Accra. Addressing a gathering at the CIMAF customer awards dinner, Mr. Atta Akyea admitted that the dumping of inferior goods onto the local market continues to be a major challenge to the industry. He however assured that government is working to resolve the issue. "My major concern is the dumping of inferior products and it is about time that if we want to really affect local production, we address the concerns of dumping. What it means is that they come and undercut the market, sell inferior products which have consequences for our building. This is a chief concern and it will soon be addressed".

Source: [Citifmonline.com](#)

### 'Parliament clears gov't to spend GHS 78bn for 2019'

Parliament has approved government's proposed expenditure of GHS 78.7bn for 2019. The amount which was approved Saturday will be spent from the consolidated fund. GHS 18bn of the expenditure will go into interest payments of existing loans, GHS 22.8bn has been earmarked for compensation of employees and GHS 1.6bn allocated for the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). This was announced in the Appropriation Bill, 2018. MDAs will be allowed to retain and use GHS 4.426bn of Internally Generated Funds during the 2019. GHS 40.617bn of the amount would constitute payments of other Government obligations.

Source: [Starrfmoline.com](#)

## Corporate News

### 'Recapitalization: ADB shareholders endorse conversion of GHS 150m to equity shares'

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has endorsed the decision by the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) to convert debt of GHS150m to equity shares to help meet the minimum capital requirement. Shareholders of the Bank at a meeting in Accra approved the deal after a short presentation from the Board Chairman, Alex Benasko. Speaking at the meeting, Mr Benasko confirmed that the BoG raised no objection to the move after shareholders' approval. "The most important thing is to get the shareholders' approval for this move because the Bank of Ghana has given its consent and awaiting the Bank to approve through its shareholders. This will also mean that the current ownership structure of the bank will change after all the necessary documentation is done" he said. The largest majority shareholder of ADB is the Bank of Ghana through its representative, the Financial Investment Trust with 60.5%. Government with 32.30% and 7.20% for other shareholders.

Source: [Myjoyonline.com](#)

### 'Your investments are safe—Gold Coast Holdings assures customers'

Gold Coast Holdings has assured its customers and the general public that their investments are safe and secured. According to the company, it is making good progress in transforming the Structured Finance product that thousands have benefited from to become an even more beneficial one. The assurance comes after some customers of the company formed a group, called the Concerned Gold Coast Fund Management Customers petitioned the Bank of Ghana, Securities and Exchange Commission and the presidency.

Source: [Citifmonline.com](#)

Currency - Interbank	Rate 20 Dec	Rate 21 Dec	%Change
USD/GHS	4.8183	4.8183	0.00
GBP/GHS	6.0980	6.0903	0.13
EUR/GHS	5.5159	5.4930	0.42
CHF/GHS	4.8639	4.8573	0.13
CNY/GHS	0.7009	0.6973	0.52
ZAR/GHS	0.3387	0.3346	1.23

The cedi stabilized against the US dollar. However, it appreciated against the British pound and the euro.